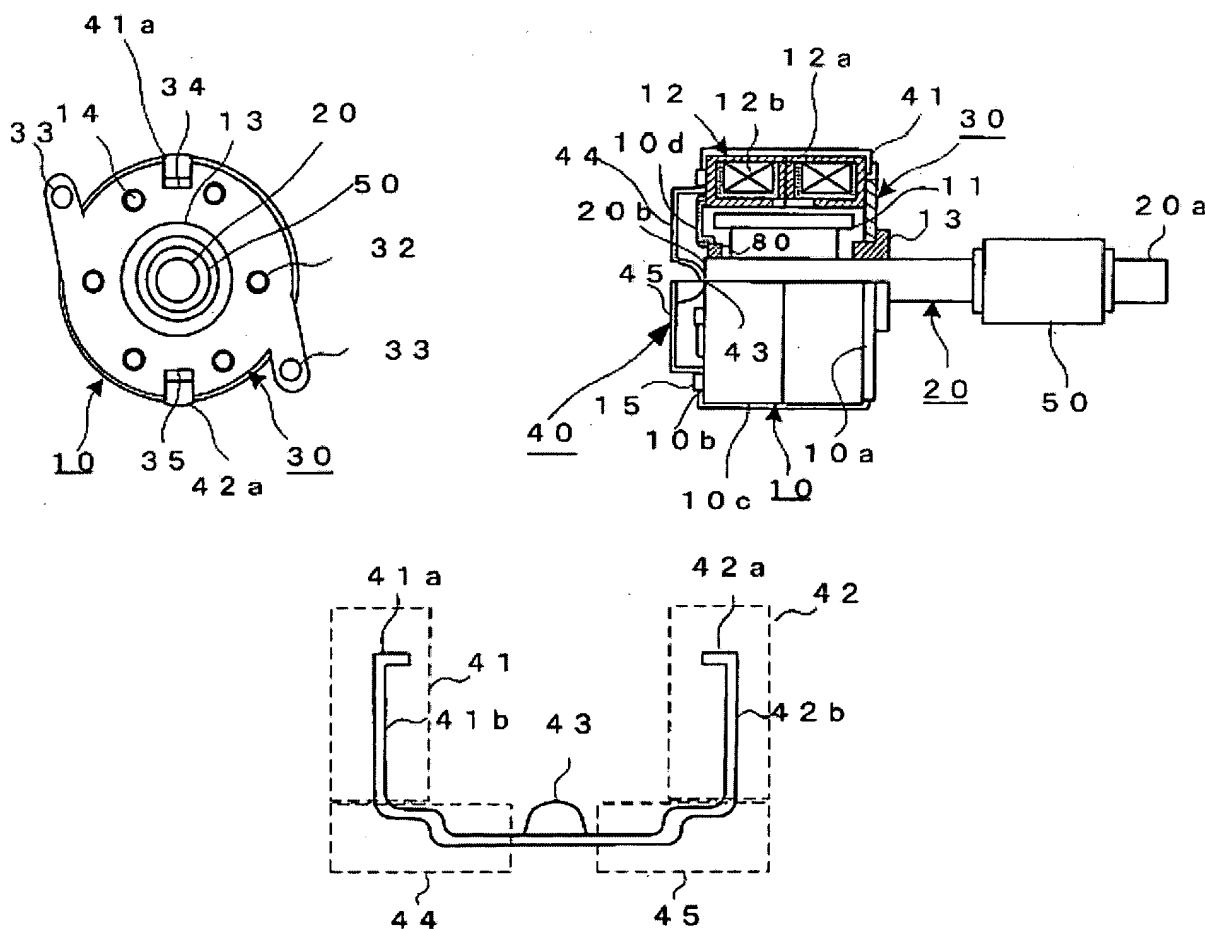


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 is amended by this response; claim 16 is added. No claims are canceled. Accordingly, following entry of this response, claims 1-5, 9-12, and 16 will be pending.

As a threshold matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in conducting the telephone interview held August 3, 2006 in connection with the above-referenced application. In that interview, the Examiner indicated the possible allowability of claims drawn to certain subject matter shown in the figures and described in the accompanying specification. In particular, the Examiner indicated the possible allowability of a motor structure including a thrust member having distal arm portions fitted within recesses on an outside surface of the motor body, as shown in Figures 1A-B and 2B (reproduced respectively below):



arm segments 41, 42 have their respective distal portions 41a, 42a bent inwardly (toward each other), and the thrust member 40 is attached to the motor body 10

such that the distal portions 41a, 42b bent toward each other are fitted respectively into the cutouts 34, 35 of the front end plate 30 attached to the motor body 10.
(Emphasis added; page 7, lines 22-26)

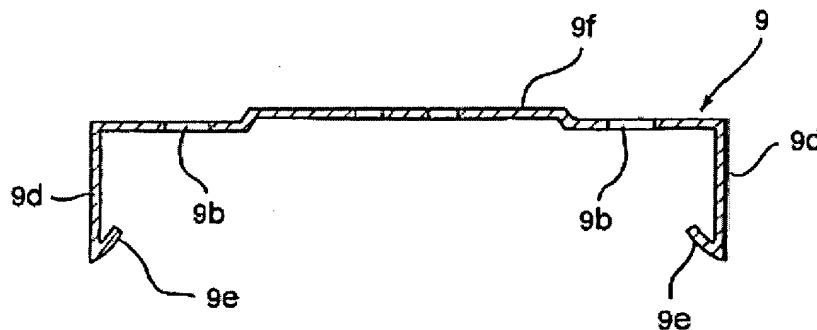
Independent claim 1 has now accordingly been amended, and new independent claim 16 added, to describe this aspect of embodiments in accordance with the present invention.

In the latest office action, the Examiner rejected the pending claims as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103 based upon U.S. Patent No. 5,811,903 to Ueno et al. ("the Ueno Patent"), taken in combination with Published Japanese Patent Document No. 2001-309610 to Iwasaki Hiroyuki ("the Iwasaki Publication"). These claim rejections are traversed as follows.

A first requirement to establish a prima facie case of obviousness is that "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations." (MPEP 2143). Here, the references relied upon by the Examiner to reject the claims, fail to teach the elements of the pending claims.

The Ueno Patent is the primary reference relied upon by the Examiner to reject the claims. The Ueno Patent does describe a motor structure. However, the Ueno Patent fails to teach or suggest a thrust member having the distal arm portions configured to fit into cutouts or recesses as recited in pending claims 1 and 16.

About the closest that the Ueno Patent comes to such a teaching, is in the description of the assembling plate (9) shown in Figure 7:



The Ueno Patent, however, specifically teaches that in the example of Figure 7, "hooks 9e are engaged with the pins of the first stator 10." (Emphasis added; col. 4, line 44) There is no teaching or suggestion here regarding distal portions configured to be fitted into cutouts or

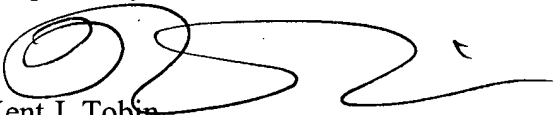
Response Accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

recesses. Moreover, the Iwasaki Publication also relied upon by the Examiner fails to provide any teaching or suggestion regarding this claimed subject matter.

Based upon the failure of the art relied upon by the Examiner to teach or suggest the elements of the pending claims, it is respectfully asserted that continued maintenance of the outstanding claim rejections is improper, and these claim rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent J. Tobin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kent J. Tobin
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